

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Porfirio Gonzalez Mazariegos, I am a resident of Hartford. I am a member of *Hartford Deportation Defense*. I support **HB 6616: An Act Relating to the Expansion of HUSKY Health Benefits for Persons Ineligible Due to Immigration Status.**

It is difficult to not have medical insurance. When I go to the hospital or a clinic and am asked for medical insurance, upon saying that I don't have any, I am given another time to come back when I have the funds to pay for the medical care. I am treated differently. We are not taken care of quickly. My 35 year old brother was told to find the funds before they could schedule a much needed surgery for a tendon on his leg. I think twice before seeking medical attention because of the way I am made to feel when I go and I tell the attendants that I do not have insurance. I was hospitalized for 4 days. I have been receiving calls and threats from a collection agency for the \$50,000.00 dollar bill. I was afraid that I was going to get arrested for not being able to pay this bill. How do I find that kind of money? This is why we are afraid to seek medical attention. With access to medical insurance, seeking medical attention comes with more ease and less fear.

I'm here supporting **HB 6616** because we need everyone to have access to health insurance. This law will cover my daughter, but all my children need me to be healthy, and the government should cover me as well.

Thanks for your time,

Porfirio Gonzalez Mazariegos